1. INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coeur d'Alene District, Cottonwood Field Office, is managing land within the Cottonwood Field Office according to management prescriptions provided in the Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan (MFP), which was published in 1981 (BLM 1981). The Cottonwood Field Office is preparing a resource management plan (RMP) for BLM-administered lands in the Cottonwood Field Office because the management prescriptions in the existing Chief Joseph MFP are outdated. The planning area, which is the Cottonwood Field Office boundary, was previously recognized as the Chief Joseph Planning Unit in the MFP. A new RMP is needed because resource conditions and public demands have changed sufficiently to warrant revisiting decisions in the 1981 MFP. The purpose of the Cottonwood RMP is to respond to resource conditions that have changed, to respond to new issues, and to prepare a comprehensive framework for managing public lands administered by the Cottonwood Field Office for the next 15 to 20 years.

As part of the RMP process, the BLM is required to prepare a Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report that provides specific information regarding mineral occurrences and development potential on BLM-administered lands within the planning area. This report provides a low level of detail for mineral assessment, as prescribed in BLM Manual 3060 (Mineral Reports—Preparation and Review) and is intended to be a supplement to the environmental impact statement (EIS) that will be completed for the RMP. It involved extensive data review and analysis from various publications related to the geology and mineral resources of the RMP planning area. A mineral assessment report was prepared from the analysis of BLM reference reports, the state archive library, state and federal publications, and Internet data sources.

Since the completion of the Chief Joseph MFP in 1981, the mineral resource industry in general and the mineral exploration and development in the region in particular have changed significantly. The gold mining industry has not been successful in discovering or developing any new gold mines within the MFP during this period, although continued higher gold prices might encourage future evaluation within the planning area. This trend is due to generally lower metal and mineral prices, increased government regulations on the mining industry and enhanced opportunities for mineral development in other regions of the world, rather than a decrease in mineral potential within the planning area. Mineral development may be expected to fluctuate within planning area as these various factors come into play. A notable exception to the trend is the increased development of the mineral material industry, with emphasis on sand, gravel, crushed aggregate and decorative stone as construction demand increases for these materials in proximity to such population growth centers as Spokane, Washington, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

A summary of the chapters in this report is provided below.

Chapter 2.0, Description of Geology, provides a description of the geologic resources as they relate to historical and future development or use of leasable, locatable, and salable minerals within the planning area. Information provided in this chapter includes physiography, general stratigraphy, intrusive rocks, structural geology, and historical geology.

Chapter 3.0, Description of Mineral Resources, describes the leasable, locatable, salable and acquired minerals that have historically occurred and those that currently occur within the planning area.

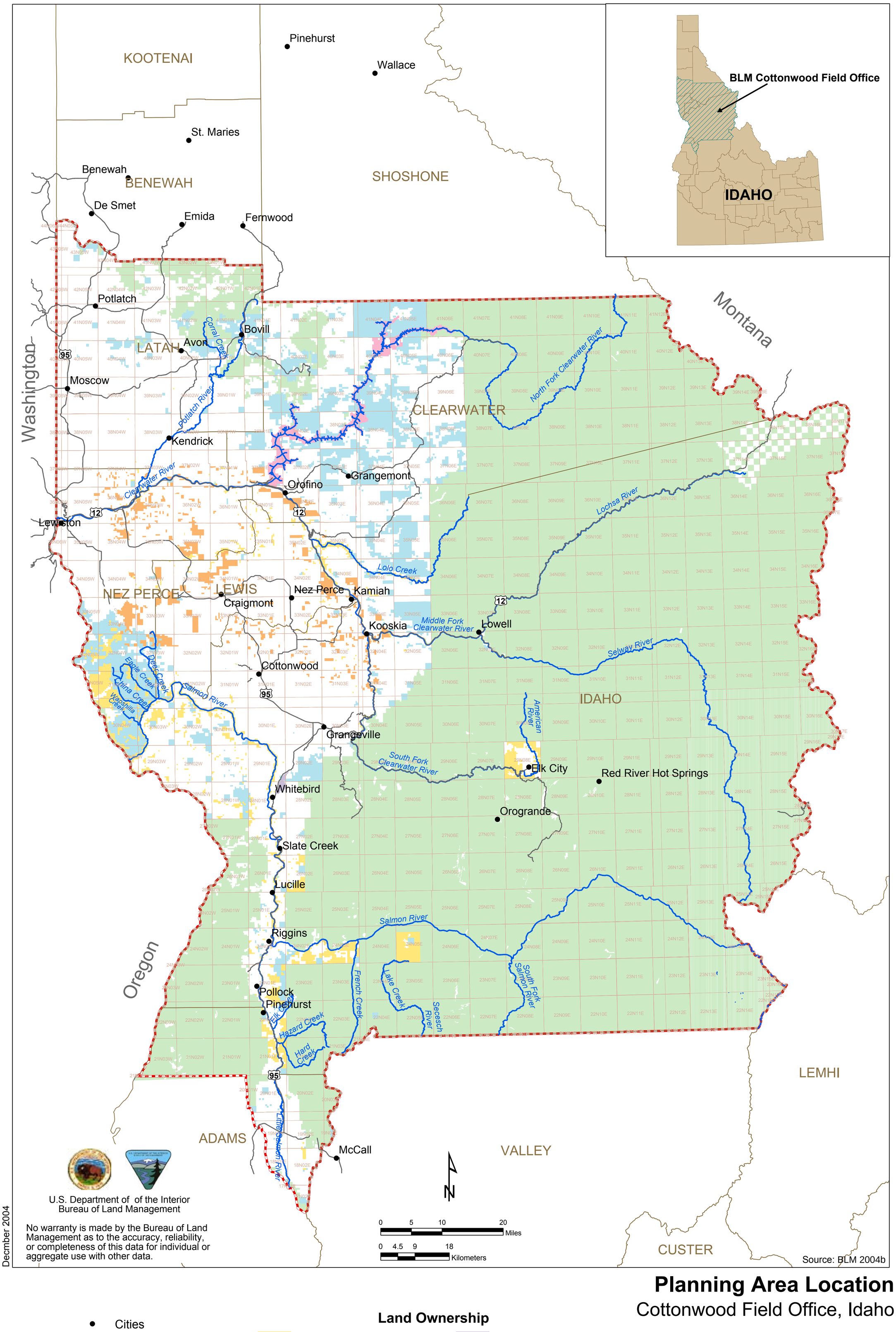
Chapter 4.0, Mineral Resource Potential, describes the leasable, locatable, and salable minerals potential within the 20-year planning period.

Chapter 5.0, Recommendations, provides recommendations for the mineral resource management of the planning area, based on the future interest and development of minerals during the 15- to 20-year life of the RMP.

Chapter 6.0, Selected References, lists the references that were used to develop this report.

1.2 LANDS INVOLVED AND DATA SOURCES

The planning area is in northern Idaho and includes approximately 144,430 acres of BLM managed lands **(Figure 1-1).** The BLM lands within the planning area include a portion of the counties of Adams (5,470 acres), Clearwater (3,948 acres), Idaho (94,870 acres), Latah (199 acres), Lewis (8,199 acres), Nez Perce (31,744 acres). Other land categories within the



Planning Area Location

Cottonwood Field Office, Idaho

- Cities
- Major Roads
- Streams
- Cottonwood Field Office
- Counties

Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Nez Perce Tribal Lands
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service

Figure 1-1

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general planning area boundary include land managed by the US Forest Service (Forest Service), Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, State of Idaho, and private land. Because the BLM does not manage any of these other agency lands, this report does not include an assessment of mineral occurrences or development potential for those minerals beneath those lands, except in a general way to show the types of mineral resources on adjacent lands that may be on BLM lands. An exception is where the federal government may acquire title to lands under special circumstances, such as purchase, condemnation, or donation from a private owner. If minerals are acquired with the title, then they may be leasable from the BLM under the Acquired Lands Leasing Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 913; 30 United States Code [USC] 351). In such instances, the surface estate is managed by the operating agency involved rather than the BLM. In some instances mineral material locations are acquired as rights-of-way (ROW) by the federal or state governments for highway construction. The BLM records and administers these contracts and agreements to ensure compliance with ROW stipulations.

Information provided in this report was obtained from published geologic reports and maps, various technical files and maps, computer databases, and personal communications with federal, state, and private technical experts.

Various general sources of information were used in describing the physiography and the geology of the region, including the following:

- Maley, T. S., 1987, Exploring Idaho Geology, Mineral Land Publications, 228 pp.
- Ross, C. P., 1958, Outline of the Geology of Idaho. Bureau of Mines and Geology, Bull. No. 15, 74 pp.
- US Geological Survey, 1964, Water and Mineral Resources of Idaho, Report for the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 210 pp.

The general information regarding the application and interpretation of the federal statues, rules and regulations was obtained from the following:

- Maley, T. S., 1984, Mineral Title Examination, Mineral Land Publications, 396 pp.
- Maley, T. S., 1985, Mineral Law—from Location to Patent, Mineral Land Publications, 597 pp.

Mineral resource information was derived from a variety of sources, but the following was used for general data:

- US Geological Survey, 1964, Water and Mineral Resources of Idaho, Report for the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 210 pp.
- US Bureau of Mines, Spokane staff, 1990, Principal Deposits of Industrial Minerals in Idaho, US Bureau of Mines Special Report, 302 pp.

Two general sources of reference material were used in assessing the mineral resource potential of the Cottonwood Field Office area:

- US Bureau of Mines, Spokane staff, 1988, Availability of Federally Owned Minerals for Exploration and Development in Western States: Idaho, 1988, US Bureau of Mines Special Report, 56 pp.
- US Geological Survey, 1995, Assessment of Undiscovered Mineral Resources in the Pacific Northwest: A Contribution to the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project, US Geological Survey Open File 95-682, 266 pp.

The BLM Field Office provided specific information regarding operating permits and plans, mineral leases, acquired lands leases, and salable material contracts. A limited amount of BLM information regarding specific mineral resources was also available for review.

The mineral industry is a changing dynamic enterprise that responds to the demands of the growing population to meet the mineral commodity requirements of the modern age. For example, the gold mining industry within the RMP planning area has experienced a decline, whereas demand for sand, gravel, and aggregate has increased dramatically over that same period. Balancing the demands for mineral resources, recreational opportunities, and environmental protection will be an important factor for the BLM over the life of this RMP.

This mineral resource report meets several of the BLM policy requirements:

- Incorporates new data from federal, state, and mineral industry sources that has become available since the original MFP in 1981.
- Resolves issues that were identified in past or that may be identified in future public scoping sessions.
- Recommends modification of the methods of use of public land that have occurred since the 1981 MFP.

This report focuses on the availability and presence or absence of various mineral resources and their potential for development. It is intended as a

technical scientific review and does not address existing or future management decisions or policy. Conclusions and recommendations about updating management decisions for public lands or about providing comprehensive management direction is covered in the main Cottonwood Resource Management Plan.

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